

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-21, 24, 26-29, 32 and 33 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4, 10 and 13 have been canceled by way of this Amendment.

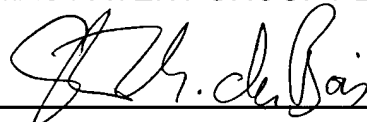
Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Sarkioja et al. in view of Bird. Claims 19-21, 24, 26-29, 32 and 33 are allowed.

In an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned discussed this application with Examiner Nguyen and also with Supervisory Patent Examiner Vu on July 18, 2006. During these telephonic discussions, the Examiners agreed that dependent claims 5-9 and 14-18 also contain allowable subject matter. Further, the Examiners indicate that if these claims were placed in independent form, and claims 1 and 10 canceled, that this application would be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, although Applicant does not agree with the rejection of claims 1 and 10 and reserves the right to file a continuation application to further prosecute these claims at a later date, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, the foregoing amendments adopt the Examiners' suggestions to place this application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, the undersigned respectfully requests entry of this Amendment and immediate allowance of this application. Should there be any remaining issues to be addressed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned telephonically.

All of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response or the application in general, he is urged to contact the undersigned at (540) 361-1863.

Respectfully submitted,
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